

Approved For Release 2001/09/01 : CIA-RDP78-04072R000100050067-4

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Prepared Text of President Johnson's Speech at Omaha

OMAHA, June 30—Following is the prepared text of President Johnson's speech in Omaha today.

Ladies and gentlemen:

I have come to Omaha today because I want to speak to you about the most important business of our time — the business of peace.

Two years ago this week—speaking also in the Midwest—I said that the peace we seek "is a world where no nation fears another, or no nation can force another to follow its command. It is a world where differences are solved without destruction, and common effort is directed at common

means at our disposal that we wish the killing to stop.

We have made it clear that we wish negotiations to begin on the basis of international agreements made in 1954 and in 1962.

They slipped across the borders of South Vietnam more than three divisions of the North Vietnamese regular army. Today there are more than North Vietnamese divisions in South Vietnam.

They built all-weather roads to replace the jungle trails from the North, and began sending in troops by trucks rather than on foot.

They shifted over to heavy weapons, using imported ammunition, much of it coming from Communist China.

What is the sending of men and arms across international boundaries if it is not aggression?

What is the direction of guerrilla war from outside a sovereign nation if it is not aggression?

So long as that support enables the Communists to prove the subversion and insurgency succeed—and that we have not yet found the ways to help a new nation defend against them—they will go on.

Our purpose is to convince North Vietnam that this kind of aggression is too costly and cannot succeed.

We know from prisoners, defectors and captured documents that the Hanoi government thought conquest was in its grasp.

But free men have rallied to prevent this conquest from succeeding. In the past 15 months, our actions, and those of our fighting allies—Korea, Australia, New Zealand, the Philippines—and the determination and courage of the South Vietnamese—have begun to turn the tide.

The casualties of the Vietcong and North Vietnamese forces are three times larger than those of the South Vietnamese and their allies.

Battle after battle is being won by the South Vietnamese and the troops of General Westmoreland.

The air attacks on military targets in North Vietnam have imposed a toll that continues to impose growing burdens and a high toll on those who wage war against the freedom of others.

In the South, the Vietnamese government has determined that their own economic development, social reform and political progress cannot wait until the war ends.

They are now preparing to elect a Constituent Assembly in September as they move toward constitutional government.

For the past two months the political struggles in South Vietnam have been dramatized in our newspapers and on our television screens.

All during this time, Vietnamese citizens representing every important group in the society have been meeting in orderly assembly. They have formulated rules for the election. The rules have been accepted, with only minor modifications, by the government in Saigon.

In the provinces and villages, the Vietnamese have gone on building schools for their children, improving health facilities and agricultural methods, and taking their first steps in land reform.

They are wrong.

We will not let our differences deter us from success. We will not permit the confusing sweep of Vietnamese politics, or the shadowy nature of guerrilla warfare, to paralyze our will to go on.

For there can be only one decision in Vietnam.

We will see this through. We shall persist.

We shall succeed.

We will not permit 14 million innocent men, women and children to fall victims to a savage aggression.

There are many nations whose fate and whose security depends on the reliability of our word and our power.

The word of the United States must remain a trust that can live by and live with and depend upon.

The Communists expect us to lose heart.

They intend to wear us down.

They believe political disagreements in Washington and confusion and doubt in the United States will hand them victory in South Vietnam—and then in Asia.

They are wrong.

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V—Dedication to Commitment

Some day we will all work as friends and brothers—to grow more food, to build more schools, to heal the sick, to care for the old, to encourage the young.

But history is not made by nameless forces. It is made by men and women, by their governments and their nations.

This Nation—working with others—must demonstrate in Vietnam that our commitment to freedom and peace is not a fragile thing. It can—and it will—sustain a major test.

With your support—with your faith

—we shall fulfill this Nation's da

means at our disposal that we wish

the killing to stop.

We have made it clear that we wish

negotiations to begin on the basis of

international agreements made in 1954

and in 1962.

For 37 days we halted bombing in

the North in the hope that the govern-

ment in Hanoi would signal its willing-

ness to talk instead of wage war. No

such came.

We have more ways than I can now

tell you. We have explored and we are

exploring avenues to peace with North

Vietnam.

But as of this moment their only re-

ply has been to send more troops and

more guns into the South.

Until the day they decide to end this

aggression and to make an honorable

peace, we will carry on.

No one knows how long it will take

Only North Vietnam can be the judge

of that.

No one can tell you how much effort

it will take. No one can tell you how

much sacrifice it will take. No one can

tell you how costly it will be.

But we can and do here and now tell

you this: this aggression will not suc-

ceed.

The people of South Vietnam will be

given the chance to work our own

destiny, in their own way, and not at

the point of a bayonet.

All of us can understand fully those

who say they are troubled, those who

wish the war would end and our troops

would end.

There is no human being in the

world who wishes these things more

than your President.

But you must have no doubt today

about the American soldiers and Ma-

rine

and hot rice paddies, the sailors who

are searching the shores and patrolling

the seas, and the pilots who are facing

the missiles and antiaircraft guns in

carrying out their missions by air.

They do not fail us.

The real question now is: Will we fail

them? Our staying power is what counts,

in the long and dangerous months

ahead.

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